

Central Point AMERICAN

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editorially speaking . . .

STATEMENT OF POLICY

This week's lead editorial was "lifted" from Don Robinson, columnist for The American Press, since his comments on "An Editorial Disease" fit right in with our thinking on the policy which we are following in the pages of the American. His column follows:

"The text for my sermon this month was supplied by Governor Meyner of New Jersey, who, in a recent talk to the publishers of that state, warned them against 'Afghanism'."

"Afghanistanism," according to the Governor's definition, is the practice of an increasing number of editors of writing editorials about far away places in order to avoid stepping on local toes.

"I agree with the Governor that there appears to be an increasing trend toward this kind of editorial. It is certainly the 'polite,' easy way to publish a so-called editorial page without 'losing any votes' for the newspaper, without getting advertising or subscriptions canceled by irate citizens, and without inviting argument from readers.

"But I wonder if this kind of editorial page isn't actually more harmful to a newspaper than no editorial page at all? Particularly in the case of the small town newspaper. It would seem to me that when the editor's own page is lacking in vigor, and avoids the subjects which are the soul of a community, readers are bound to get the impression that the whole newspaper is a drab publication which is hardly worth reading.

"I think the editorial page should be a newspaper's chief piece of promotion—a big house ad which readers regard as the heart from which the vitality of the newspaper flows.

"The New York Times—to which people turn for news of the whole world—might get away with a piece about Afghanistan. But the weekly editor, whose newspaper depends upon coverage of local news for its existence, should seldom be tempted to let his mind stray beyond his state borders when he sits down to write his editorials."

IT'S UP TO YOU

We have been asked by several readers why we "didn't cut loose editorially" on the rural fire department "mess" which hit the headlines last week.

Our position is this:

We do not feel that a newspaper has any business adding fuel to a situation which obviously stems from misunderstanding.

It is apparent to us, although we may stand alone, that the controversy which developed last Monday evening is the result of a great number of twisted fragments of rumor and misunderstanding.

We are sure that the situation will be cleared up to the satisfaction of everyone by conscientious, devoted efforts of the board of directors.

Residents of the rural fire district can do more to clear up the situation than any number of words written on an editorial page. All any resident has to do to get a clear picture of the rural fire department operation is to attend a board meeting and ask questions.

Members of the board are more than happy to pass on any information which they have, since they are merely representing you in the administration of the department.

With this thought in mind, we charge every resident of the rural fire district to make a sincere effort to understand the facts about the department and to put a stop to the wild rumors and charges which have been flying about during past weeks.

Hammond Attends Styling Clinic

Mrs. Maxine Hammond of Central Point attended the hair-styling clinic at the Corvallis Beauty College on Sunday, July 29.

The event was held by the styling committee of the Oregon Beauticians Association, an affiliate of the National Hairdressers and Cosmetologists association.

Mrs. Hammond, owner of Roland's Studio of Beauty in Medford, is a member of the styling committee and is third vice president of the state association.

Evergreen Service Moves to New Spot

Mrs. Emily Masterfield, owner and operator of Evergreen Bookkeeping Service, yesterday moved into new quarters at 321 East Pine street.

The local firm is now occupying quarters recently vacated by the Chris Barker Agency.

Previously, Mrs. Masterfield had her bookkeeping service located at 249 Pine street, next door to The M & M Agency.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

We read with great interest your editorial (July 26) regarding a swimming pool for this community.

Having thought about this for some time, our conclusion is that the logical agency to build and maintain such a pool is the school district. Our specific suggestion is that the next building project of School District 6C include an indoor swimming pool in connection with the Physical Education plant of either the Junior or Senior high school.

Our thinking includes the following points:

1. Swimming would be a part of the physical education program so that every child in the district would learn how to swim.

2. Swimming is one of the best activities to develop physical fitness and one of the few sports that can be carried on after school years are over.

3. School facilities should be available to all residents of the district, throughout the whole year.

4. An indoor pool could be used through the whole year, while the use of an outdoor pool is limited.

Yours very truly
Mrs. Claude Thompson

Book Briefs

From Central Point
Public Library

Avis Van Hoy

Charmed Circle
By Susan Ertz

The Prentiss family was one that believed in keeping the family circle intact and anything which threatened to intrude was quickly dealt with by Mr. and Mrs. Prentiss.

So complete was their family life, that following her marriage, Clarisse wanted only to return to her parents and brothers, and this started the chain of events that brought tragedy into their lives, and caused them to move to France in order to get away from their former friends and from the people who blamed them for the tragedy.

While on a trip to England, Halley, the oldest of the Prentiss family met Selma, and when a few months later they were married, he began to live a strange life, for he feared his parents' reaction to the marriage that he wouldn't tell them.

Julian, the youngest, was a timid, shy person, easily influenced by other people's ideas, and very much in fear of doing anything her parents would dislike.

Due to an inherited fortune which made working unnecessary, and over powering parents, these three people had to each find the way to combat these two factors which did so much to shape the way of life they lived, and to become adults who could manage their own affairs.

Inquisitive people gather a lot of information that is not backed up with facts.



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Across from Courthouse

Frank Morgan PHONE 2-8030 Harold Snodgrass

MEDFORD, OREGON

Pastel Paint Proves Pleasing

Two more Central Point buildings joined the "pastel parade" over the weekend.

The IOOF building next to the post office has been painted a pleasing pastel green. This structure is also the location of Pauline's Fashions.

The second building to join the color combination is Paulsen Thrift Market. Both the original store and the new addition have been painted a light yellow shade.

Witnesses to Attend Assembly in Salem

Central Point congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses are making final plans to attend a four-day district assembly in Salem on August 2-5, it was announced today.

The Salem gathering is one of 24 scheduled to be held in the United States and Canada during July and August. In all some 80 to 90 congregations will be officially represented at Salem with attendance expected to run upwards of 5,000.

The Central Point group will be represented by 52 delegates. R. C. Groshong, presiding minister of the local congregation, will head the delegation.

Rowden Completes Marine Training

San Diego, Calif. (Special)—On July 20, Donald B. Rowden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe B. Rowden of Central Point, completed recruit training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at San Diego.

The ten-week course included instructions in all basic military subjects and the firing of all basic infantry weapons.

Upon completion of training, the Marines are assigned to Camp Pendleton, Calif., further infantry training or to one of the many Marine Corps schools.

Yocom Completes Airman Training

Marine Pfc. Lyle K. Yocom, son of Mrs. G. W. Jack of Central Point, has completed airman school at Jacksonville, Florida.

He was promoted to his present rank at the graduation exercise. He finished second in his class of 120 and has been sent to electrician school for further training.

Yocom, Crater High school graduate, enlisted January 3 after attending SOCE at Ashland.

LADY LIONS MEET

Central Point Lady Lions will hold their next meeting at the home of Mrs. Bill Abbott, 115 outh Fifth, at 8 p.m. Tuesday, August 7.

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